

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A transfer system comprising:

a plurality of transfer lines, (L) each transfer line forming ~~of which forms~~ a closed loop and ~~has~~ having transfer-in stations ~~(S₁ and S₃)~~ and transfer-out stations ~~(S₂ and S₄)~~ for assembling parts ~~(p₁ to p₅)~~ to a work ~~(D_L and D_R)~~, while circulating the work ~~(D_L and D_R)~~ along the transfer line (L);

a work and part transfer passage (51) for transferring the work ~~(D_L and D_R)~~ and the parts ~~(p₁ to p₅)~~; and

sub-transfer-passages ~~(52₁ and 52₂)~~ branching out from the work and part transfer passage (51);

wherein the work and part transfer passage completely separates the plurality of transfer lines into first and second groups of transfer lines, wherein longitudinal ends of each ~~of the transfer lines (L) face~~ line faces a side of the work and part transfer passage (51);

wherein the transfer-in stations ~~(S₁ and S₃)~~ and the transfer-out stations ~~(S₂ and S₄)~~ are disposed at each of the longitudinal ends of each of the transfer lines (L); and

wherein the sub-transfer-passages ~~(52₁ and 52₂)~~ completely separate the plurality of transfer lines into third and fourth groups of transfer lines, which are different from the first and second groups of transfer lines and wherein the sub-transfer-passages are disposed on longitudinally sides of the transfer lines (L).

2. **(Currently Amended)** A transfer system according to claim 1, wherein longitudinal ends of a pair of the transfer lines (L) face opposite sides of the work and part transfer passage (51).

3. **(Currently Amended)** A transfer system according to claim 2, wherein transfer directions of the pair of the transfer lines (L) disposed on the opposite sides of the work and part transfer passage (51) are reverse to each other; the transfer-in stations (S_4 and S_3) of one transfer line (L) oppose to the same of the other transfer line (L), with the work and part transfer passage (51) therebetween; and the transfer-out stations (S_2 and S_4) of one transfer line (L) oppose to the same of the other transfer line (L), with the work and part transfer passage (51) therebetween.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A transfer system according to claim 1, wherein a pair of the transfer lines (L) are disposed along one side of the sub-transfer-passages (52_1 and 52_2), and another pair of the transfer lines (L) are disposed along the other side of the sub-transfer-passages (52_1 and 52_2).